

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

7:00 p.m. - Regular School Committee Meeting

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair

Kellie DiPalma

Liana Fenton

William O'Connell

Member Absent:

Michael Crowley, Chairman

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. administrative staff members present were Steve Ponte and Gail Abromitis.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

Student Awards were given out in the following categories:

- Newport Daily News Athlete of the Week**
- Boys' Varsity Tennis Division III State Champions**

A short recess was taken.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Middletown Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force”

Ms. Lori Verderosa introduced consultant Mr. John Mattson who reviewed the results of student Health and Wellness Survey. There were over 800 surveys collected. The main items reviewed regarding substance use were “Last 30 Day Use”, “Risk for Harm”, “Peer Approval” and “Parent Disapproval”. A major factor is accessibility and availability for illegal substances and alcohol. At the middle

school level, 88% of students have never had a drink. The major changing points are when students start high school and when they turn 16 and obtain their drivers license. Only 50% of students think it is harmful if they smoked marijuana on a daily basis. Overall students perceive that their parents would disapprove of drug use. Over 66% of students responding said it is “very easy” or “easy” (Minutes of June 21, 2012 School Committee Meeting, Page Two)

to obtain alcohol. 44% of high school students said it is “sort of” or “very easy” to obtain marijuana in school.

Regarding the district’s Chemical Health Policy, 23% of students believe it has changed student behavior, mostly boys. A low number of students feel that the chemical health policy has an impact.

When student athletes use alcohol or drugs, it is a sign that it is OK to do. Most students are not using on a regular basis, but other students perceive that they are.

Students say that a lack of activities or boredom is a factor in drug use, particularly female students. There is a need for a youth center and/or youth activities.

Mrs. Kraeger said that topics need to be covered in health classes about risky behaviors. The administration is proposing the universal use of the breathalyzer at school functions. Students are currently tested if there is a suspicion.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No Student Activities for June 21, 2012.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- **Middletown High School has received a grant for \$8,000 from the Van Bueren Charitable Foundation.**
- **Audit report from UCOA.**
- **Month of the Military Child observances.**
- **Booklets from Sports Night, Athletic Banquet, West Side Story, Spring Pops Concert, and the WAVE were included in the packet.**

CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence for June 21, 2012.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of May 17, 2012 School Committee Meeting
- Approval of Minutes of May 17, 2012 Executive Session
- Approval of Minutes of June 4, 2012 Special School Committee Meeting
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 16, 2012, in the amount of \$19,068.22
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 16, 2012, in the amount of \$3,812.50
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 16, 2012, in the amount of \$1,714.86

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- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 17, 2012, in the amount of \$800.00
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 18, 2012, in the amount of \$15,411.68
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 18, 2012, in the amount of \$5,546.07
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 18, 2012, in the amount of \$205,446.96
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 23, 2012, in the amount of \$126,703.98

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 23, 2012, in the amount of \$2,069.97
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 24, 2012, in the amount of \$660.00
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 24, 2012, in the amount of \$2,231.31
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 24, 2012, in the amount of \$6,944.15
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 25, 2012, in the amount of \$697,429.96
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated May 29, 2012, in the amount of \$22,055.10
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 6, 2012, in the amount of \$1,002.59

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENT

Bryan Alexander Custodian II, 2nd Shift, Facilities Management Department

SUMMER CAMP APPOINTMENTS

Charles Russ Site Manager

Jill Smith Site Manager

Anthony Geer Senior Counselor
Emily Tessier Senior Counselor
Dylan Atibagos Counselor
Nick Church Counselor
Victor Peabody Floating Counselor
Katie Dupere Camp Intern

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT

Lillian Scott Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

TRANSFERS

Lisa Wood Math Specialist, J.H. Gaudet School, to
Grade 8 Math Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

Laurie Oliveira Grade 2 Teacher, Aquidneck School, to
Grade 3 Teacher, Aquidneck School

Susan Cunningham Science Teacher, Middletown High School, to
Grade 5 Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

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COACHING APPOINTMENT

Kathryn Tajima Girls' Junior Varsity Lacrosse

EXTENSION OF CONTRACT

Raquel Pellerin Business Manager, through June 30, 2015

Edward Collins Director of Facilities, through June 30, 2015

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY

EXTENSION OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Tara Donaldson Special Education Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To go into Executive Session 42-46-5 (a) 1,2,5,8,9 at 7:46 p.m. Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To close Executive Session 42-46-5 (a) 1,2,5,8,9 at 8:30 p.m. Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To seal minutes of

Executive Session 42-46-5 (a) 1,2,5,8,9. Unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

CONTRACT EXTENSION – TOILET PAPER/PAPER TOWELS

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the one year extension to the original contract. Unanimous vote.

CONTRACT EXTENSION – ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR SERVICES

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the one year extension to the original contract.

CONTRACT EXTENSION – PLUMBING CONTRACTOR SERVICES

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the one year extension to the original contract. Unanimous vote.

TUITION RATE

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the tuition rate for 2012-2013. Unanimous vote.

There are currently two students who pay tuition.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee authorize payment of bills through June 30, 2012. Unanimous vote.

This is a standard procedure to finish out the 2011-12 fiscal year.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee authorize the transfer of funds to appropriate lines of the budget. Unanimous vote.

This is a standard procedure to finish out the 2011-12 fiscal year.

IMPACT AID FUNDS

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee commit Impact Aid funds in the amount of \$260,000 for High School Paving/Sidewalk work and \$56,194 for High School/Gaudet School Roof work. Unanimous vote.

The Town funded 60% of these projects and asked the school department to contribute the other 40% from Impact Aid funds.

CONTRACTS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Business Manager and Director of Facilities contracts through June 30, 2015. Unanimous vote.

FACILITIES DEPARTMENT JOB CLASSIFICATION/NAME CHANGE

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the Facilities Department Job Classification/Name Change from Custodial Supervisor to Custodial Supervisor/Team Leader Custodial Foreperson Level (1) Middletown High School. Unanimous vote.

FOOD SERVICE BID

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the renewal of the existing Food Service Contract for one year. Unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

- NJROTC** – Students completed the survey during their advisory. Thirty-four surveys were returned and six were interested in the program.

NEW BUSINESS

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- SOLAR CARPORTS** – All information is not complete. Item is tabled for now.

- CHARTER CHANGES** – The the Town Charter changes were approved by the Town Council. Two changes impact the School Department; the Town would have the authority to ratify contracts after School Committee approval, and there could be a consolidation of services or departments. These Charter changes need to go before the voters in November. Mrs. Spengler said that these changes would cause a major negative impact on the school department.

- ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** - Mrs. Kraeger has met with two individuals who were the first graduating class at Middletown High School who would like to begin an alumni association.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

•**CURRICULUM** – The Consolidated Resource Plan has been submitted. At the May 21st Professional Development Day, staff worked on common summative assessments. This will be presented at the July School Committee Meeting.

•**FINANCIAL** – The Council has given us the bottom line. We need to work to reduce the budget. The Budget Subcommittee needs to meet. The budget needs to be adopted thirty days after the town sets the budget.

•**FACILITIES** – Mr. Collins reported that we have received final approval by RIDE for the projects. The Town now needs to secure funding for \$1.7m for health and safety projects. A meeting has been held with Salve Regina University regarding expanding the partnership. This project would involve the drive-in property. We will continue to meet to move forward. An auditorium, team room/locker room, Division III weight room, and storage room are all ideas. The land needs to be surveyed first with regard to wetlands and contamination.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Fenton attended a State meeting and reported that there will be

work on an advanced manufacturing partnership. Meetings have been held with with CCRI, the Governor's workforce, and various other companies to get a career pathway in advanced manufacturing. This will be an 18 month to 2 year program. The grant will be submitted tomorrow.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 8:54 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk